

An Inaugural Dissertation on
the Pulse, submitted to the examina-
tion of

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In an attempt to prove, the fallacy of the
pulse, as a guide, in the treatment of cer-
tain diseases, I should do injustice to
the talents and zeal, of the professor of
the Institutes and practice of med. in
this University, were I not to acknow-
ledge my belief, that it is the great cen-
tral of the system; that other symp-
toms may often be uncertain, and are,
generally useful, only, when taken col-
lectively. The introduction of the an-
tiphlogistic plan of treatment of some
diseases by Sydenham, may be con-
sidered as forming one of the most
important eras in the progress of the
healing art. Too, tho' not sugges-
ted by any great principles unac-

ally applicable to disease; it has contributed to lay the foundation of a theory of medicine that elevates the profession to the dignity of a science.

But important as an attention to the state of the pulse is in the treatment of disease, it will not I think be difficult to prove that it sometimes invites to the adoption of mischievous and even fatal practice. It is an evil, often, attending the acquisition, of any good, that, other minor sources, of usefulness and information, which, we have long been in possession of, should sustain a diminution of value. And if the sanguine expectations of mankind often dispose them to overvalue a new discovery in philosophy or the arts, may we not suppose that a

... to say the foundation of
... that should be
... to the object of a science.
... as an obstacle to the
... in the substance of his
... it will not be difficult
... that at least one
... of which one and
... as an end.
... after attending the acquisition of any
... than many sources of
... which one is informative, which one
... in possession of, which one
... a summation of value. But if
... expectations of man
... often differ from the common
... in philosophy or the
... not understand that

benevolent disposition would be more apt to overrate an improvement in a science which has for its object the health and happiness of the human race — Sublata causa tollitur effectus had once its reign as a medical axiom; but when supplanted by new principles, an indiscriminate application of the latter has often deprived us of much benefit that ^{we} might have been deprived from an attention to the former. I shall therefore endeavour to prove first that the state of the pulse has been too much relied on, to the exclusion of a regard to the cause of disease. The success of Dr White's practice in puerperal fever, remarkably exemplifies the ad =

oft to promote an improvement in
our actual habits, its object
the health and happiness of the
man. — Habitual care is better
effected than even to urge as a rule
and axiom, but under supposition
new principles, an improvement of
position of the latter has of the
kind in of much respect to that
have been shown from an attention
to the former. Chalk therefore is
known to form part of the
of the food has been too much
or, to the exclusion of a regard to
the cause of disease. The success
of Dr. Williams' practice in functional
and, remarkably successful in the

advantages resulting from a removal of
the exciting cause without much
attention to the state of the pulse.
Great quickness of pulse was a dis-
tinguishing symptom, accompanied
sometimes, especially, in the com-
mencement with some tension.

But believing that the usual ^{case} of
this disease was a retention of the
lochia and faces become acrid from
constipation; and knowing that the
prophylaxis consisted in avoiding
these and a hot regimen (~~together with~~
~~an observance of temperance~~) he con-
cluded that a continuance of the ac-
tion of these internal irritating causes
must prolong and aggravate the fe-
ver. The removal of them, together with
remedies calculated to excite gently,

the existing cases without much
attention to the state of the lungs
first question of fact was a dis-
tinguishing symptom, accompanied
sometimes especially in the case
menstruation with some tension.
But knowing that the usual
of this disease was a retention of the
blood and pain became acute from
coagulation; and knowing that the
phosphorus was in a very
there was a low regimen (perhaps) and
~~a low regimen of food and drink~~
which that a continuation of the
time of their natural vitality
must first be and opposite to this
for. The removal of them, together with
various calculated to assist parturition.

perfidious action constituted the means
that insured a happy termination of
the complaint. Blood letting, when
indicated by excitement in the pulse
he believed would have been destruc-
tive to the patient, already scarcely
possessed of strength enough to ex-
hibit the phenomena of life.

Bleeding says Dr Denman if di-
rected or repeated by the inflame-
matory appearance of the blood
will generally hasten the death of
the patient by diminishing strength
faster than it can abate dis-
ease — So fatal indeed was the
use of the Lancet in this fever
within the observation of Lee-
ret, that he declared he never
saw a patient survive the op-

eration. The symptom of pain ac-
companying fever is thought often
to justify the employment of bloo-
letting. When a primary symptom
and the effect of great action eva-
cuating remedies are no doubt
proper; but it is often the effect
of such a weak degree of morbid
action, that added to a debilitated
state of the whole system, de=
pletion in any way would be
injurious; and it will frequently
continue by habit in spite of all
other remedies, yielding only to
the use of opium, a medicine pow-
erful in exciting new action.

Pain says Deuman referring to
the disease of which I have been

the dis-
lain
reful in existing
the use of opinion
other causes
continue by habit
impression; and it will frequently
picture in any way
state of the water
action, that order to a
of such a good
factor, but it is often the effect
country seen in our boats
and the effect of great action
acting. It is a primary
to justify the employment of
compensating fear in thought of the

speaking should be elicited by the use
of opium without hesitation at any
period of the disease when it is
mild; for tho' it be originally a
consequence of the disease, it becomes
after a time a powerful cause of
its continuance and increase.

Altho improvements in the manage-
ment of lying in women have re-
duced puerperal fever much less
common now than formerly, on
which account when it does oc-
cur its inflammatory nature
may require a free use of ^{the} de-
pleting plan; still it is suffi-
cient for my purpose to have
shown, that the Lancet when

of opinion without hesitation it was
found that the church when it is
invited, for this it is obliged to
expressions of the church of being
for a time a simple cause of
its establishment and maintenance.
With improvements in the manage-
ment of property in business there is
such progress from which the
common man has been formerly
which is evident when it is seen
in its inflammatory nature
may require a free use of the
feeling that, still it is sufficient
evident for my purpose to have
shown, that the church is not

in obedience to the apparent demands of the pulse, has been not only prejudicial but frequently fatal— The fatal effects of the Lancet in a disease vulgarly called head pleurisy, and which assumes some variety of character can have escaped the notice of but few physicians. But often as it has occurred to their observation, the difficulty of managing it has frequently perplexed them, and sometimes almost led them in the confusion of anxiety and alarm to commit the suffering patient to the feeble and uncertain operations of nature— The symptoms are such as

to seem to require a free use of
depleting remedies, and the con-
sequence ^{of their application} of the, that of pros-
trating the patient beyond the
power of the physician to rec-
over him — A history by Le
Vaughan of an epidemic which
prevailed in Delaware 1801, af-
fords some idea of the diffi-
culty of treating certain diseases
according to the state of the pulse
and other symptoms of high
morbid action. For the sake
of perspicuity I shall ~~give~~
a case which he has published
"An active robust man aged
26 indisposed by a slight catarrh
was attacked with a chill at a

fox chase; during the chill he drank
freely of cold water and vomit-
ed incessantly. Fever succeeded
and about an hour from its
commencement I saw him;
he had a frequent dry cough
oppression and pain of the
breast and head, pulse full
and rather tense, and in fact
the symptoms of pneumonia
complete. I opened a vein
and drew $xii \frac{1}{2}$ blood, gave an
effervescent mixture to check
the vomiting and, ^{afterwards} an antimon-
ial febrifuge to promote perspi-
ration. At 9 P.M. he was much
relieved and inclined to sleep.
On the 11 at 7 A.M. saw

On the 11th of the 11th. 1844
received and enclosed to stop
rather - At 9 P.M. he was
at fishing to his water tank
the account and an entrance
of the account and entrance to stop
and since the 2nd day of the
account - before a man
the symptoms of pneumonia
and rather than and in fact
heart and has, but the fall
of the heart and the fall of the
he has a frequent cough
arrangement from him;
and about an hour from the
to the heart. Then the heart
free of the water and account

him again and to my astonishment found him quite exhausted, his pulse feeble extremities cold and of a leaden hue; lips and tongue covered with a dark scurf and fissured, his eyes of a glassy appearance and pupils somewhat dilated, with typhomania. Blisters were applied and cordials, but he died comatose at 4 P.M.

There are few perhaps who will not be disposed to attribute the sudden death of the patient in this case to the loss of blood which he sustained. The practice was such as prevailing theory and gene-

ment from this point of view
of his father's feelings
and one of a less than
and longer course with a
high level and degree, his
case of a glassy appearance
and pupils somewhat dilated
and with typhosus. But
was often and common, but
he was common at 4 P.M.
There are few pupils who
will not be subject to the
tendency to run out of
the patient in this case to the
loss of blood which he has
known. The patient was not
as favorable as they can be

val analogy justified; yet it was
unsuccessful under the direction
of an eminent physician, who
was so alarmed at the conse-
quences of bloodletting, that
he was at a loss when to pre-
scribe and when to omit it.

Dr Barton also speaks of an epi-
demic in which the state of the
pulse and symptom train were
such as to induce an adoption
of the antiphlogistic plan. Death
was the melancholy issue of every
case thus treated, and a resort
to the bark was as successful
as a different practice had
been before fatal - So true is
the remark of Olibert that symp.

the remains of the old fort
has been before stated - It was
on a different location
to the first was so successful
case then treated, and a report
was the maintenance of peace of every
of the authorities, the first Decade
such as to render an expedition
further and report there were
known in which the state of the
Dr. Butler also speaks of an expedition
which was when to report it.
It was at a large when to see
presence of his military, that
was so abundant at the same
at an ancient fortification, and
the remains of the old fort

toms (or disease) are often incom-
patible with the remedies which
seem necessary for their remo-
val — The frequency of jaun-
dice, Dropsy and some other dis-
eases, succeeding intermitting and
remitting fevers, has been addu-
ced as proof that the Lanicit is
often improperly withheld. As
disease does not always appear
in the same nosological class
an ⁱⁿattention to the changing
state of the system may some-
times have been productive
of these disagreeable effects.
But if it be feeble theory to say
that the other systems are often
too debilitated to bear the loss

to be admitted to be the law
that the other system are
But if it be felt that
of these singular effects
there have been but
state of the system may
an attention to the
in the same manner
obscure does not always
often in factly visible. It
is on proof that the
remitting fever, has been
cases, involving interesting
and deep and some other
not - The frequency of
been necessary for their
factors in the cases which
are of the system

of support they would suffer from
a reduction of the excitement
of the arteries; that the bark
suspends the action of the in-
sultant that continues disease
or transmits the latter to a
part less capable of being fa-
tally acted on; if this reason-
ing be objected to; I have only
to appeal to the opinions and
experience of physicians; and
there are few I suppose who
would not attribute generally
these consequences of fever
to some neglect ^{as to} the quan-
tity or times of administering
the bark — The mischiefs re-
sulting from too great a reliance

of the fact that they were
a sensation of the existence
of the arteries, that the back
disappears the action of the
arteries that continues direct
on transmits the latter to a
part is capable of being
tally acted on; of this nature
it is opposite to, I have only
to refer to the opinion and
experience of physicians; and
there are few disputes into
events not attended generally
their consequences of fever
to show right in the
tip or times of occurrence
the back — the microscope
another from the great vessel

on the pulse is taken notice of by
Lind in his treatise on Hot cli-
mates - The inexperienced disci-
ples of Sydenham and those who
have read authors that treat of
inflammatory diseases only, he
advises, ^{in hot climates} to abstain from the use
of the lancet entirely and to trust
to other remedies - For this ve-
ry imperfect essay I have several
apologies to offer; the want of
accuracy and minuteness in writ-
ters in their relation of symp-
toms, especially that of the pulse;
the incompetency of a student to
treat a medical subject; and above
all a requisition of the University

on the subject is to be taken
to be in the nature of the
matter. The impression
has of the subject and the
has been another that
information is not only
excluded, to the extent
of the subject entirely and to
to other results. - For this
my imperfect copy of the
apologies to others; the
accuracy and interest in
the in their relation of
to be especially that of the
the manner, history of a
that a moral subject and
all a representation of the

which is a sufficient excuse for
the failure of an attempt that ~~it~~
has received no aid from a feeling
of confidence in the writer, or if
it have any merit, owes it to the
learning and abilities of those ^{persons} who
have endeavoured to inculcate in
their pupils sound principles of medi-
cine

the picture of an attempt that
has been made to the
of assistance in the
it has not been
keeping an absolute
have been made to
then further
been